

BRADLEY IN DALLAS DAY OF SLAYING--DA

12/27/67
Claim He Was in El Paso
Lie, Says Garrison

District Attorney Jim Garrison Thursday claimed that a 49-year-old California broadcaster charged with conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy was in Dallas the day of the killing, and not in El Paso as the suspect had earlier stated.

Garrison, reported to have returned to New Orleans from Los Angeles, Calif., shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday, made the statement earlier while checking out of a Los Angeles hotel.

It was his first public comment about Edgar Eugene Bradley since Bradley was charged Wednesday in New Orleans with taking part in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

With a warrant for his arrest already issued, Bradley had earlier denied any connection with the assassination, and said the entire matter "is probably a case of mistaken identity."

"Our evidence indicates that he was in Dallas," said Garrison, referring to the assassination day. "Furthermore," the DA added, "I think that I can say with assurance that the federal government and federal investigative agencies and the Dallas investigative agencies know he was in Dallas, and know precisely what he was doing."

Bradley's employer, Dr. Carl McIntire, a syndicated radio broadcaster and president of the American Council of Churches, labeled the conspiracy charge of Garrison "irresponsible, unsupported and wild," and called for an investigation of the DA's conduct and sources of information.

Ironically, as Bradley was answering telephone queries from newsmen at his home in N. Hollywood and warning, "If Garrison is going to press trumped-up charges, he'll have to be prepared to prove them." The DA, himself, was nearby at the International Inn in Los Angeles. He was registered un-



THE REV. CARL MCINTIRE
Calls Garrison charges "wild."

der the name of "Clyde Ballou," but Clyde Ballou was not receiving telephone calls, and had left instructions not to be disturbed.

In another development, The Times-Picayune learned that a man named Edgar

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Eugene Bradley worked at New Orleans Lakefront Airport as a pilot in 1963.

Michael A. O'Conner, supervisor at the airport, said that in the fall of 1963 he found a man sleeping in the airport lobby. The man was in need of a shave, and, according to O'Conner, "much thinner" in appearance than the picture he had seen of Bradley, the California broadcaster.

NOT SEEN AGAIN

O'Conner said he woke the man up and he identified himself as "Les" or "Leslie" Bradley. "I told him I didn't want to see him sleeping in the lobby and I told him to go home. He left and I never saw him again."

Talking with other airport employees at that time who wit-

nessed the scene, O'Conner said he was told by them that the man's name was Edgar Eugene Bradley and that he had flown for Scott Flying Service, a company no longer in existence here.

In California, Bradley said he believes the charge against him is a case of mistaken identity because he was questioned by FBI agents about three years ago and was told they were seeking another "Gene Bradley" whose description did not fit his.

Meanwhile, Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Louis Heyd Jr. contacted Sheriff P. J. Pitchess of Los Angeles County, and told him that a copy of the arrest warrant for Bradley was on the way by mail.

UP TO HIM . . . HEYD

Heyd said that Sheriff Pitchess could arrest Bradley on the basis of the telephone call or he may wait until he receives the warrant. "That's up to him," said Heyd.

Thursday afternoon Sheriff Pitchess said his office would take no action until the warrant arrives. "I presume at that time we'll present it to the district attorney's office here," Pitchess said. "We'll decide on the legality of it and whether we'll take any action."

He said Bradley called him at 11 a. m. and told him he was available and would surrender to the sheriff if authorities wanted him.

Bradley, who says he sells the Rev. Dr. McIntire's syndicated radio broadcasts to West Coast stations, said that his main problem will probably be the financing of his defense.

A native of Arkansas, Bradley claims a modest income. He said he came to Los Angeles in 1936 after serving with the U.S. Navy, and worked with a moving firm until some six years ago when he began work with his present employer.

Standing five feet, eight inches tall, the suspect has dark hair except for some gray at the temples. He and his wife Connie, a receptionist in Los Angeles, have two children, but he refused to give their names.

Bradley is the second person to be charged with conspiracy to murder President Kennedy in the year-old probe by Garrison. Clay L. Shaw was arrested last March on the charge and he faces trial in February.

In Bradley's case, if he is arrested, he may either return

to New Orleans voluntarily to face the charge or fight extradition. Bradley indicated Thursday he would fight the attempt to get him here. The warrant for his arrest said bond has been set at \$10,000. This will stand unless Judge Matthew S. Braniff, the criminal court judge who will hear the case, orders it lowered.

'ONE N.O. VISIT'

The California man said he was in Texas on the day of the assassination — Nov. 22, 1963 — but in El Paso, some 621 miles from Dallas, where President John F. Kennedy was murdered.

He said he has been to New Orleans only once, and that was during April of this year:

"We were just passing through. We had been to see my son who is in college in the South and my wife wanted to see the French Quarter. So we drove back through New Orleans. We didn't even spend the night. We did some sight-seeing and went on.

"We went through Dallas, too on our way home," he added.

Bradley asserted that on Nov. 22, 1963, he was in El Paso, returning home by bus from a visit with Dr. McIntire, who is his employer. The American Council of Churches, which Dr. McIntire heads, is a small ultra-conservative organization opposed by the National Council of Churches.

Bradley would not say where the meeting with Dr. McIntire took place.

"Certain individuals," he said, "who have been trying to frame me for five years because I work with Dr. McIntire might have planted information about him with Garrison."

The Rev. Dr. McIntire, in his statement issued at his church

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in Collingswood, N.J., said: "We know of no basis for any such accusation against Mr. Bradley, whom we know to be a very fine Christian gentleman.

CALLED PREPOSTEROUS

"The whole development is preposterous. Oswald and Ruby are dead. Garrison, for some weeks, has been talking about a 'right wing conspiracy.' This attempt to involve us in the assassination plot leads me to call immediately for a full investigation of Mr. Garrison's conduct, and particularly, his sources of information, by responsible state officials.

Bradley said the Rev. Dr. McIntire has been described as a right-wing broadcaster, but "I'm neither a right-wing extremist or a left-wing extremist. I don't belong to a thing and I don't know anything about Garrison or the Kennedy affair."

Bradley has been married for 27 years and has a son, 19, and a daughter, 21.

Concerning a photograph released by Garrison's office when it announced its charges against him, Bradley said it looked like a recent photo of him. "The suit I have on in the picture is only a year or so old."